

AMENDMENT TO THE SPECIFICATION

Please amend the specification as follows:

Please amend the paragraph starting at page 15, line 23 and ending at page 16, line 7 as follows:

First, a first-strand cDNA was synthesized from 0.5 µg of the total RNA using a SuperScript reverse transcriptase (Gibco-BRL) and downstream anti-sense primers. Subsequently, PCR amplification was carried out. The amplification was conducted in 35 cycles (in the case of chondrocytes) or 40 cycles (in the case of cartilaginous tissues), each cycle being conducted 30 seconds at 94°C, 1 minute at 59°C and 1.5 minutes at 72°C. As a primer base sequence for PCR amplification a 725 bp fragment was prepared with 5'-CAGT(A/G)ATGATCTCAATGGGCAAT-3' (SEQ ID NO:1) and 5'-AATGCCCTCTTCCTATGACTTC-3' (SEQ ID NO:2) for c-Met of a rat and mouse (Oncogene, 2, 593, 1988).